

News

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New England Nonfarm Employment up 148,800 in 2000

New England's nonfarm employment increased by 148,800 over the year to a seasonally adjusted level of 7,068,300 in December 2000 marking the ninth consecutive year of growth, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney pointed out that New England jobs grew 2.2 percent between December 1999 and December 2000, surpassing the national increase of 1.4 percent--the first time this has occurred since 1986.

Among New England's nine major industries, only manufacturing and mining failed to add jobs in 2000. Over the year, manufacturing payrolls edged down 2,400 in December, or -0.2 percent, due to a decline in nondurable goods that more than offset a rise in durable goods. Manufacturing employment has continued its long-term downward trend virtually uninterrupted throughout the 1990's. However, only 30 percent of manufacturing losses this decade have occurred since December 1993. Over the ten-year period, durable goods payrolls declined 1.8 percent annually, almost twice the 1.0 percent decline for nondurable goods.

For the fifth consecutive year, construction added jobs at a faster pace (6.7 percent in 2000) than any other industry division in New England. Services, New England's largest industry, gained 77,900 jobs over the year, increasing 3.3 percent. Since 1991, services has added almost 650,000 jobs to its total representing well over half the increase in New England nonfarm payrolls during the expansion period. Elsewhere, transportation and public utilities rose 2.5 percent, wholesale trade, 2.3 percent, and retail trade, 1.8 percent, for the year ended 2000. The remaining major industries grew at a slower pace with government, up 1.3 percent, and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 1.0 percent.

Among the six New England states, job growth ranged from 1.2 percent in Connecticut to 2.8 percent in Maine in 2000. Employment gains in Connecticut and Rhode Island were close to the national increase of 1.4 percent, while job expansion in Maine and Massachusetts was about double the U.S. average.

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Job growth varied widely by state and industry. With the exception of Vermont, construction payrolls were up in all New England states led by a 10.0 percent increase in Massachusetts between December 1999 and December 2000. Construction jobs also grew at a robust pace in Maine and Connecticut, which expanded by 5.3 and 5.2 percent, respectively. Employment growth in services was strongest in New Hampshire, up 5.2 percent. In retail trade, Maine posted the highest increase, up 3.2 percent. Manufacturing job growth was strongest (2.7 percent) in Vermont, one of only two states in New England (Massachusetts was the other) not to record a decline. In the public sector, government payrolls increased in four of the six New England states, ranging from 1.0 percent in Massachusetts to 3.4 percent in Maine.

Technical Note

Estimate Aggregation and Reliability

Nonfarm employment data presented in this release are taken from the Current Employment Statistics survey in cooperation with state agencies in each of the six New England states. State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. The national employment series are developed independently from the individual state estimates and the sum of the estimates is not forced to national totals. However, each state series is subject to larger estimation error than the national series. Therefore, since the data for New England are not estimated independently, but rather represent the sum of the state data, they are subject to the cumulative error of the individual states, which can cause significant distortions at the aggregate level.

2000 Benchmark Revision

Once a year, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) or establishment survey adjusts its sample-based employment estimates to incorporate the previous year's March employment counts in a process known as benchmarking. With the release of estimates for January 2001, nonfarm payroll employment, hours, and earnings for States and areas were revised to reflect the incorporation of March 2000 benchmarks and the recomputation of seasonal adjustment factors. These revisions affected all unadjusted data from April 1999 forward and the seasonally adjusted State estimates back to January 1996.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls in New England, seasonally adjusted

(numbers in thousands)

Industry	December 1990	December 1991	December 1992	December 1993	December 1994	December 1995	December 1996	December 1997	December 1998	December 1999	December 2000	Change Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	
												Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	6,210.6	5,974.2	6,001.3	6,125.7	6,276.4	6,365.7	6,500.6	6,652.5	6,782.3	6,919.5	7,068.3	148.8	2.2
Goods Producing	1,401.2	1,299.8	1,269.4	1,256.3	1,263.9	1,257.2	1,266.0	1,291.9	1,289.0	1,288.3	1,304.2	15.9	1.2
Mining	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	220.4	181.5	186.5	193.5	206.3	208.2	223.5	234.3	255.2	272.4	290.7	18.3	6.7
Manufacturing	1,177.5	1,115.3	1,079.7	1,059.5	1,054.3	1,045.7	1,039.1	1,054.2	1,030.3	1,012.4	1,010.0	-2.4	-0.2
Durable goods	787.8	736.7	704.0	679.4	671.7	667.9	665.6	679.5	665.4	653.8	658.8	5.0	0.8
Nondurable goods	389.7	378.6	375.7	380.1	382.6	377.8	373.5	374.7	364.9	358.6	351.2	-7.4	-2.1
Service producing	4,809.4	4,674.4	4,731.9	4,869.4	5,012.5	5,108.5	5,234.6	5,360.6	5,493.3	5,631.2	5,764.1	132.9	2.4
Transportation and public utilities	265.1	252.3	254.4	264.5	266.8	267.9	275.5	282.6	287.9	294.9	302.2	7.3	2.5
Wholesale trade	328.6	311.1	300.5	309.5	321.3	328.4	335.1	341.6	347.8	349.4	357.6	8.2	2.3
Retail trade	1,103.7	1,053.3	1,064.7	1,100.5	1,132.9	1,138.4	1,163.2	1,182.7	1,208.8	1,235.4	1,258.0	22.6	1.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	454.9	436.3	428.5	439.5	431.5	431.3	436.2	446.2	466.5	474.5	479.1	4.6	1.0
Services	1,775.5	1,757.5	1,819.9	1,879.7	1,971.4	2,045.5	2,120.3	2,193.0	2,249.3	2,326.5	2,404.4	77.9	3.3
Government	881.6	863.9	863.9	875.7	888.6	897.0	904.3	914.5	933.0	950.5	962.8	12.3	1.3

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls in the New England states, seasonally adjusted

(numbers in thousands)

Connecticut	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000		New Hampshire	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	
			Level	Percent				Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	1,677.6	1,697.5	19.9	1.2	Total nonfarm	612.7	624.9	12.2	2.0
Goods producing	328.7	328.4	-0.3	-0.1	Goods producing	131.1	130.7	-0.4	-0.3
Mining	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	Mining	1/	1/		
Construction	63.0	66.3	3.3	5.2	Construction	24.5	25.1	0.6	2.4
Manufacturing	264.9	261.3	-3.6	-1.4	Manufacturing	106.2	105.2	-1.0	-0.9
Durable goods	184.0	182.5	-1.5	-0.8	Durable goods	75.8	75.5	-0.3	-0.4
Nondurable goods	80.9	78.8	-2.1	-2.6	Nondurable goods	30.4	29.7	-0.7	-2.3
Service producing	1,348.9	1,369.1	20.2	1.5	Service producing	481.6	494.2	12.6	2.6
Transportation & public utilities	77.8	79.8	2.0	2.6	Transportation & public utilities	22.2	22.1	-0.1	-0.5
Wholesale trade	82.0	83.4	1.4	1.7	Wholesale trade	32.0	33.2	1.2	3.8
Retail trade	279.3	282.1	2.8	1.0	Retail trade	130.6	133.0	2.4	1.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	140.7	141.2	0.5	0.4	Finance, insurance, and real estate	32.7	32.9	0.2	0.6
Services	531.3	540.9	9.6	1.8	Services	181.7	191.1	9.4	5.2
Government	237.8	241.7	3.9	1.6	Government	82.4	81.9	-0.5	-0.6
Maine	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000		Rhode Island	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	
			Level	Percent				Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	593.4	610.3	16.9	2.8	Total nonfarm	471.4	477.7	6.3	1.3
Goods producing	114.9	114.4	-0.5	-0.4	Goods producing	91.9	91.5	-0.4	-0.4
Mining	1/	1/			Mining	1/	1/		
Construction	28.4	29.9	1.5	5.3	Construction	18.3	19.0	0.7	3.8
Manufacturing	86.4	84.4	-2.0	-2.3	Manufacturing	73.4	72.3	-1.1	-1.5
Durable goods	43.3	43.3	0.0	0.0	Durable goods	48.2	47.6	-0.6	-1.2
Nondurable goods	43.1	41.1	-2.0	-4.6	Nondurable goods	25.2	24.7	-0.5	-2.0
Service producing	478.5	495.9	17.4	3.6	Service producing	379.5	386.2	6.7	1.8
Transportation & public utilities	24.2	24.1	-0.1	-0.4	Transportation & public utilities	16.5	17.0	0.5	3.0
Wholesale trade	27.1	27.9	0.8	3.0	Wholesale trade	19.8	20.4	0.6	3.0
Retail trade	120.4	124.2	3.8	3.2	Retail trade	87.5	89.1	1.6	1.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	31.9	33.0	1.1	3.4	Finance, insurance, and real estate	30.0	30.6	0.6	2.0
Services	177.3	185.8	8.5	4.8	Services	161.9	165.4	3.5	2.2
Government	97.6	100.9	3.3	3.4	Government	63.8	63.7	-0.1	-0.2
Massachusetts	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000		Vermont	December 1999	December 2000	Change, Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	
			Level	Percent				Level	Percent
Total nonfarm	3,269.1	3,357.3	88.2	2.7	Total nonfarm	295.3	300.6	5.3	1.8
Goods producing	558.2	574.5	16.3	2.9	Goods producing	63.5	64.7	1.2	1.9
Mining	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	Mining	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	123.5	135.8	12.3	10.0	Construction	14.7	14.6	-0.1	-0.7
Manufacturing	433.3	437.3	4.0	0.9	Manufacturing	48.2	49.5	1.3	2.7
Durable goods	269.6	275.4	5.8	2.2	Durable goods	32.9	34.5	1.6	4.9
Nondurable goods	163.7	161.9	-1.8	-1.1	Nondurable goods	15.3	15.0	-0.3	-2.0
Service producing	2,710.9	2,782.8	71.9	2.7	Service producing	231.8	235.9	4.1	1.8
Transportation & public utilities	141.9	146.6	4.7	3.3	Transportation & public utilities	12.3	12.6	0.3	2.4
Wholesale trade	175.8	179.8	4.0	2.3	Wholesale trade	12.7	12.9	0.2	1.6
Retail trade	562.5	573.6	11.1	2.0	Retail trade	55.1	56.0	0.9	1.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	226.7	229.0	2.3	1.0	Finance, insurance, and real estate	12.5	12.4	-0.1	-0.8
Services	1,183.5	1,229.1	45.6	3.9	Services	90.8	92.1	1.3	1.4
Government	420.5	424.7	4.2	1.0	Government	48.4	49.9	1.5	3.1

1/ not seasonally adjusted